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**SACRAMENTO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD AND STOLEN
SECURITIES CHARGES INVOLVING \$1.4 MILLION
Defendant Had Filed Civil Lawsuit To Force Local Bank
to Honor Counterfeit Check**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that DAVID ROMO, 31, of Sacramento, California, pled guilty today to two counts of bank fraud and one count of interstate transportation of stolen securities concerning approximately \$1.4 million in stolen and counterfeit checks and money orders. Two of the instruments were counterfeit Walt Disney Company checks totaling \$660,000.

ROMO faces a sentence up to 30 years imprisonment and a \$1 million fine on each of the two bank fraud counts and up to 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine on the stolen securities count.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher P. Sonderby, who is prosecuting the case, ROMO admitted to defrauding the Norwest Bank by depositing two counterfeit Walt Disney checks with total face value of \$660,000 into newly-opened accounts at Stockman's Bank and Salomon Smith Barney. Court records show that ROMO had filed a civil lawsuit against Stockman's Bank in Sacramento Superior Court to force the bank to honor one of his counterfeit checks.

ROMO also admitted that he illegally sent stolen money orders and two stolen checks from a New Orleans eye surgery clinic totaling approximately \$740,000 to an accomplice in Texas using a Federal Express envelope.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Secret Service.

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